

ENSO in the Wakefield CWA: What does it mean for us?

El Nino conditions have developed and are expected to persist through the upcoming Fall and Winter seasons. The following data from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) takes a look at previous events since 1950 for all regions of the United States. We will take a look at “region 10” that encompasses most of the Wakefield CWA and compare average temperature and precipitation.

ENSO Box and Whiskers Analysis

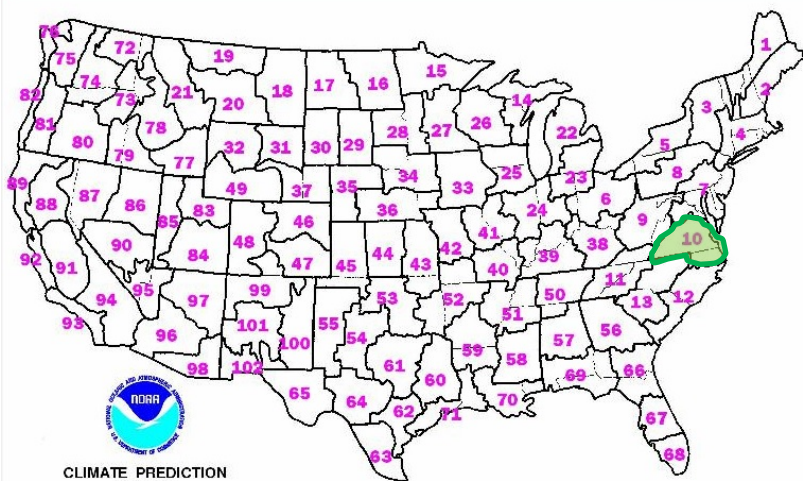
3-month Temperature and Precipitation Distribution

By making selections below, you can obtain historical distributions of 3-month temperature and precipitation associated with 3 different ENSO categories - El Nino, La Nina, and Neutral events for a climate division.

[Click here for information about the ENSO distribution analysis](#)

Select a date and type of image. Then click on a climate division on the map to display the box and whiskers distribution plot which will open on a new page.

SON ☒ Temperature ☐ Precipitation

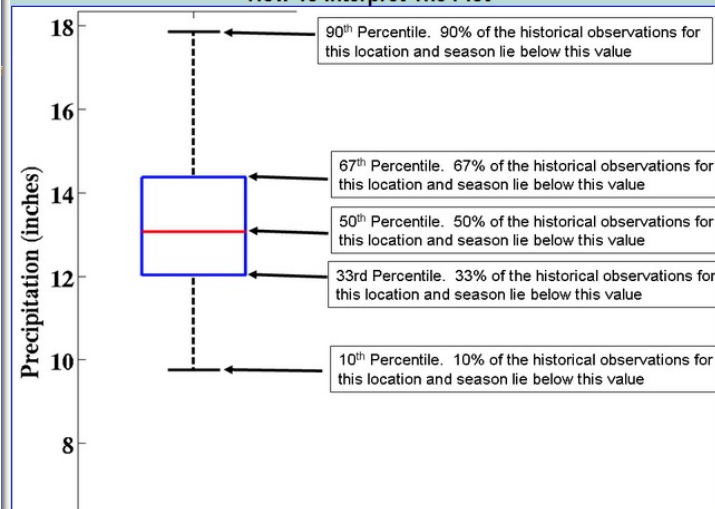


About the ENSO Box and Whiskers Analysis

The box and whiskers plots represents the historical distributions of seasonal temperature and precipitation associated with 3 different ENSO categories - El Nino, La Nina, and Neutral events for each climate division. The 3-month categorizations of ENSO events that were used are available at : [ENSO events](#)

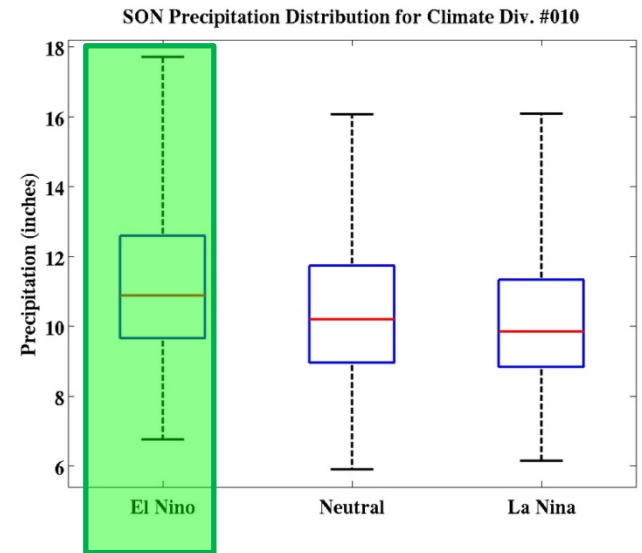
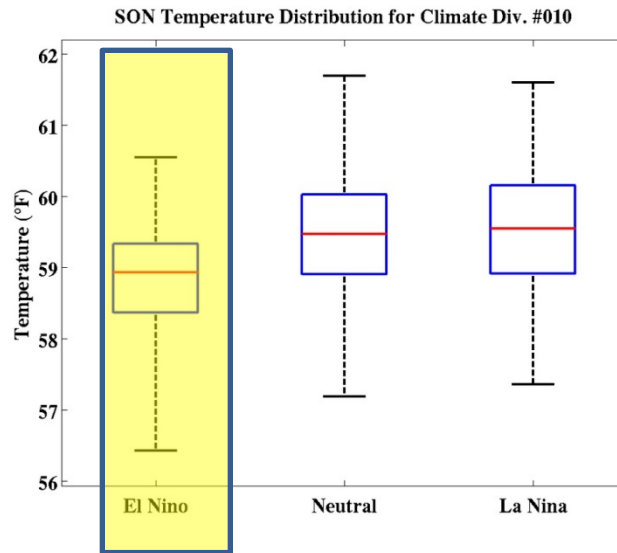
The 3-month temperature or precipitation data for a specific ENSO category is fitted to a distribution (Gaussian for temperature, Gamma for precipitation). Then a curve is fitted to the resulting distribution. From this curve, various percentiles are obtained and are plotted in the box and whiskers plot (See Fig 1.) .

How To Interpret The Plot



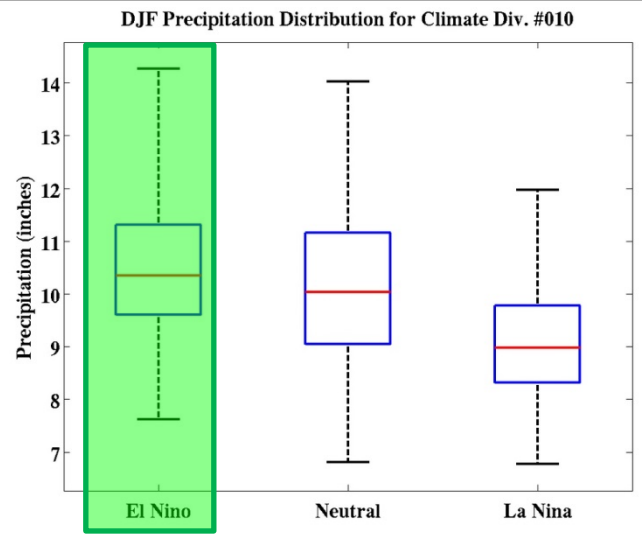
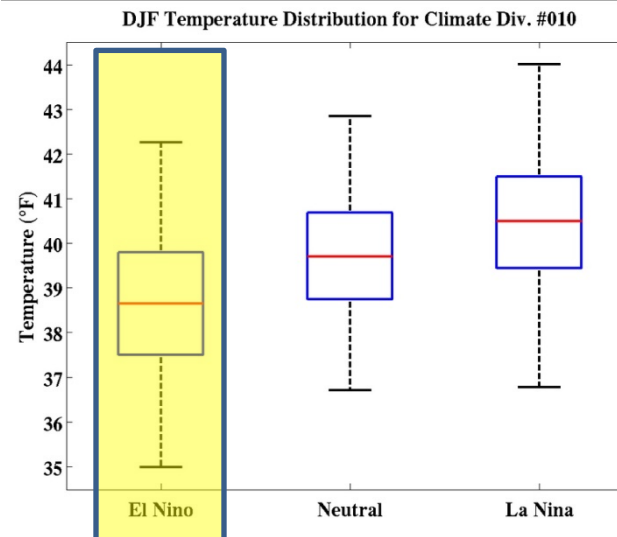
FALL (Sep/Oct/Nov):

The data shows temperatures during El Nino events average slightly cooler than in La Nina or Neutral ENSO cases. Precipitation averages slightly wetter than in La Nina or ENSO Neutral.



WINTER (Dec/Jan/Feb):

The data shows temperatures during El Nino events average colder than in La Nina or Neutral ENSO cases. Precipitation averages slightly wetter than in La Nina or ENSO Neutral conditions.



The latest CPC Outlook for the upcoming 2015-16 Winter Season (Dec/Jan/Feb):

The most recent CPC outlook favors increased chances for cooler and wetter than average conditions across the southern United States and this includes the Wakefield CWA. However, the percentages only slightly favor these conditions, indicative of the many other factors that influence winter temperature and precipitation. In the next month, we will update this discussion with a more detailed analysis from specific stations within the local area as well as some examples over some of the more recent El Nino events.

